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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE

CONSULTATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES



FEBRUARY 1969

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(II)

FOREWORD

Since 1950, the Committee on Foreign Relations has maintained a series of consultative subcommittees, corresponding generally to the organization of the Department of State.

In addition, there have been established from time to time other subcommittees on problems or areas of continuing interest and concern to the committee.

The consultative subcommittee system is designed to foster more extensive consultations between the members of the Foreign Relations Committee and officers of the Department of State and to undertake independent studies in areas of special committee interest. Since World War II the U.S. role of leadership in the world has thrust new and important responsibilities upon the Congress. Moreover, the problems which confront the United States in various parts of the world have increased tremendously in number and complexity. This means that a degree of specialization in the work of the Committee on Foreign Relations has become desirable. By organizing along the subcommittee lines set forth below, it is possible for the members to keep abreast of the more important developments within each of the geographic and substantive areas of concern in the conduct of foreign policy.

There is no regular schedule of meetings.

It should be emphasized that the subcommittees are for purposes of consultation and not primarily for consideration of legislative matters. Treaties and legislative items on the committee's agenda are handled, for the most part, by the full committee or ad hoc subcommittees. Occasionally, however, consultative subcommittees have been given special assignments by the full committee. As a general rule, consultative subcommittees do not hold public hearings without the approval of the chairman or the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It should be emphasized, too, that the existence of these subcommittees does not mean that consultations between the Secretary of State and the Foreign Relations Committee upon matters of major importance are diminished. What is involved is an additional mechanism which helps to insure that members of the committee are kept currently informed with respect to events and anticipated developments in every part of the earth.

J. W. FULBRIGHT, *Chairman.*

FEBRUARY 1969.

(III)

I. CONSULTATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES ¹

European Affairs.—Senators Sparkman (chairman), Symington, Pell, McGee, Case, Cooper, and Javits.

Staff assistant: Donald G. Henderson.

Far Eastern Affairs.—Senators Mansfield (chairman), Sparkman, Gore, Dodd, Aiken, Mundt, and Cooper.

Staff assistants: Norvill Jones and James Lowenstein.

International Organization and Disarmament Affairs.—Senators Gore (chairman), Church, Pell, McGee, Case, Cooper, and Williams.

Staff assistants: Morella Hansen and William Bader.

Western Hemisphere Affairs.—Senators Church (chairman), Sparkman, Mansfield, Dodd, Aiken, Case, and Javits.

Staff assistants: Pat Holt and Norvill Jones.

Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.—Senators Symington (chairman), Sparkman, Mansfield, Aiken, and Mundt.

Staff assistants: William Bader and James Lowenstein.

Economic and Social Policy Affairs.—Senators Dodd (chairman), Gore, McGee, Williams, and Javits.

Staff assistant: Pat Holt.

Ocean Space.—Senators Pell (chairman), Church, and Case.

Staff assistant: Robert Dockery.

African Affairs.—Senators McGee (chairman), Dodd, and Mundt.

Staff assistant: Donald G. Henderson.

¹ The chairman of the full committee is an ex officio member of all subcommittees.

II. SCOPE OF COVERAGE OF CONSULTATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES

In general, the work of the various subcommittees is divided in such a way as to correspond to the organization of the Department of State. In some cases—such as the economic and technical assistance programs—foreign policies cut across more than one geographic or functional field. Where that is true it may be necessary to carry on consultations with the members of two subcommittees. Likewise, it should be pointed out that additions to the coverage of any subcommittee will be made from time to time as new problems arise. The present division of work of the subcommittee is outlined below.

European Affairs

This subcommittee deals with the continent of Europe, from Spain to the Soviet Union, except for Greece, which is the concern of the Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee. Problems relating to the United Kingdom and, because of Commonwealth ties, also Australia and New Zealand are within its scope. Greenland, Iceland, and the polar regions are likewise embraced in this area.

The subcommittee is also concerned with such matters as relations with the Soviet Union and its satellites, NATO, and German unification.

Far Eastern Affairs

The geographic scope of interest of this subcommittee extends from China and Korea to Burma, inclusive, on the mainland of Asia, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Malaya, Indonesia, Oceania, and the South Pacific islands. On trusteeship matters it has a related interest with the Subcommittee on International Organization and Disarmament Affairs.

This subcommittee is concerned with the problems in the Far East, with Vietnam, with China, with the Southeast Asia Treaty, and the peaceful development of the free economies and democratic political institutions of the Far East generally.

International Organization Affairs

This subcommittee has within its area of interest the organization and work of the United Nations and all its organs; relationships between the U.N. and the various regional and specialized agencies; and the work of other international organizations. The subcommittee is also concerned with such interregional matters as refugees and displaced persons, health, human rights, and freedom of information.

Matters pertaining to the control and reduction of armaments, suspension of nuclear tests, nonproliferation and related subjects also fall within the purview of its jurisdiction.

Western Hemisphere Affairs

The geographic scope of interest of this subcommittee extends from the Arctic Ocean to Tierra del Fuego, and includes the Caribbean except for French and Dutch territories.

The problems which are of its concern are, among others, relations with the American Nations, including Canada, the implementation of various treaties and conventions, economic relations, the security of the Western Hemisphere, and the Alliance for Progress.

Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

The area of concern to this subcommittee extends from India, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Ceylon to Greece and Turkey. It embraces also the Arab States and Israel.

This subcommittee deals with the problems of south Asia, the Middle East, and the relationships between Israel and the Arab States, problems of economic development, and the general security of the Middle East and the south Asian areas.

Economic and Social Policy Affairs

The interest of this subcommittee relates to foreign economic policy. Trade policy, financial and development policy, transport and communications, and coordination within the executive branch of such policies are of concern to the subcommittee.

Among the particular problems dealt with are the stimulation of international trade, the world economic situation, the technical assistance program, and all economic problems having an impact on the foreign policy of the United States.

Ocean Space

This subcommittee is concerned with the problems and activities involving the use, development, and exploitation of ocean space and the international marine environment. In addition, the subcommittee has responsibility over various conventions and bilateral agreements relating to international marine affairs.

African Affairs

This subcommittee has responsibility corresponding to the Bureau of African Affairs in the Department of State.

The subcommittee considers all matters and problems relating to both the dependent and the independent areas of Africa, with the exception of the United Arab Republic. It deals with such questions as colonialism, nationalism, and economic development.

